

From: cxs@ppco.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 11:57am
Subject: Antitrust settlement does nothing to correct the problem

It would appear that the DOJ has caved to political pressure or political payoffs (not sure which). The so-called "settlement" not only lets Microsoft "off the hook", but also provides an opportunity to infest our schools with inferior products. Our poor children will suffer even more than we have, trying to make computers work. Our kids will soon become afraid of computers, and students in every school where Microsoft products have been insinuated into the classroom will believe themselves to be stupid because they can't make poorly engineered software work. We're sacrificing our children's future so that one man can be filthy rich?

I don't think either the DOJ or the courts understand that the real issue is software quality and usability! Microsoft products are inferior, and Microsoft has used it's illegal business practices to prop up the sales of what are and always be inferior products. They don't know how to make them work correctly, so they threaten PC manufacturing companies to force the use of those inferior products. The Windows operating system lacks even the most basic features of what an operating system is supposed to be. It's not surprising since Gates never took a single OS class in college. I was required to take three separate Operating Systems courses before I was allowed to attain my Masters degree in Computer Engineering, and yet I still do not consider myself to be a systems programmer. Windows fails every test of an OS, and Microsoft Office fails even the most minimal Software Engineering principles.

To the lawyers at DOJ I pose this question: If a minimal high school graduate came into your courtroom, without training, without the ability to find and quote legal references and precedents, and without even the slightest knowledge of "how things are done" in the legal profession, how would you react? In addition, the Judge in the case is being threatened with financial ruin, and is forced to tell you fully trained members of the bar to keep you collective mouths shut and to allow this untrained person to do anything they please in the courtroom, no matter how outlandish, to make a mockery of the legal system... do you begin to understand the problem? I take the damage done by Microsoft to the Software Engineering profession very seriously. And the damage done to the American software industry has set up back almost 20 years. We may never catch up with Europe since they continue to innovate in an environment where business practices are not used as a substitute for good engineering.

Microsoft has, without impunity, inflicted inferior computer science on an unsuspecting public. Why has it been so difficult to clearly state

the most obvious point in this case? Microsoft software is bad, it's bad for users, it's bad for programmers, it's especially bad for new computer students, and it's bad for this country's future! I hear people blame hardware, blame users, blame the internet, blame everyone else, for the problems in the the usage of modern PCs, but any honest software developer will tell you the problem lies in the OS. We are losing ground to programmers around the world because our legal and political system is forcing us to use an inferior operating system. And this is being done because, obviously, the DOJ and courts are either afraid of Gates or have been paid off.

I'm sure there's no way to prove it, and the DOJ certainly won't try, but it's pretty obvious to all of us in America that you have been paid off. Meanwhile, good quality programmers in the USA are losing jobs and lives to people in Europe, India, even the far east because they are allowed to use a decent OS for their software development.

what a crock,
cherie

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